



NATIONAL  
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SERVICE

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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: October 23, 2011**

**Number: 33**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 23, 2011

Field activities were slowed again this week due to rainy weather in Virginia. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.0. Light frost was reported in a few areas of the state. Soybeans and corn are responding well to the cooler night temperatures and warmer day temperatures although some mold damage has shown up in soybeans. Pastures and hayfields continue to look good as many farmers have gotten a third cutting of hay in some areas. Grain farmers spent time planting wheat and harvesting soybeans. Tobacco harvest is winding down as growers are preparing to go to the buying stations. Cotton is progressing and peanut yields are looking good. Vegetable growers continued to harvest greens, broccoli and other fall vegetables.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 25, 2011	1	9	67	23
October 2, 2011	1	11	67	21
October 9, 2011	2	19	71	8
October 16, 2011	1	12	67	20
October 23, 2011	1	8	78	13

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 25, 2011	6	14	65	15
October 2, 2011	7	12	66	15
October 9, 2011	6	17	68	9
October 16, 2011	6	15	66	13
October 23, 2011	6	10	73	11

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension Service**

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	5	5	25	54	11
Livestock	1	4	23	58	14
Hay, Other	5	9	27	44	15
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	22	57	19
Soybeans	0	2	19	62	17
Peanuts	0	2	21	62	15
Cotton	0	11	60	27	2
Apples, All	0	0	38	60	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn for Grain Harvested	87	84	95	83
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	84	64	95	90
Soybeans Harvested	16	9	36	25
Winter Wheat Seeded	40	36	43	31
Winter Wheat Emerged	11	NA	17	10
Barley Seeded	80	60	88	80
Oats for Grain Seeded	79	66	81	NA
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	93	88	87	93
Peanuts Dug	65	45	74	82
Peanuts Combined	47	20	45	59
Cotton Bolls Opening	97	95	100	99
Cotton Harvested	56	29	70	46
Fall Apples Harvested	94	70	80	92
Winter Apples Harvested	76	60	73	73

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 23, 2011**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Oct. 22	Mar. 1 to Oct. 22 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	68	45	80	35	57	1	4057	3780	0.23	6.80	0.45	30.45	-5.37
Norfolk	75	55	86	48	65	5	4877	4233	0.74	8.39	1.84	46.70	7.79
Richmond	71	52	82	43	61	3	4627	4099	0.21	9.97	3.37	39.55	2.93
Roanoke	69	48	81	37	58	2	4235	NA	0.86	10.43	4.34	35.52	0.00
Wash/Dulles	66	46	73	39	56	2	4093	NA	0.81	12.70	6.51	38.06	3.46

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### NORTHERN

(Central Cont'd.)

#### FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

We have had rain only on Wednesday for this week. Still dry conditions, but fall pasture has come back.

### WESTERN

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Most of Rockbridge received between .5 and 1.0 inch of rain Tuesday through Thursday morning, suspending harvest activities and slowing other field work. Saturday and Sunday mornings saw patchy light frost, the first this autumn, but it probably was not heavy enough to deter forage growth. Pasture conditions remain excellent.

### CENTRAL

#### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Pastures and hay fields are looking good going into winter. Most farmers have gotten a third cutting of hay in the last few weeks. Most of the corn crop is harvested and farmers are moving to soybeans as fields dry down and become workable. Vegetable farmers are marketing pumpkins, greens and winter squash.

### CENTRAL

#### CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Wednesday Oct 19, the rain stopped the harvesting of corn and soybeans. Temperatures were in the upper 40's - to mid 50's, daytime highs upper 60 -70's. Saturday and Sunday morning were the coldest morning, but no frost.

#### HANOVER (Jim Tate)

There was rain earlier in the week followed by sharply lower temperatures. Pneumonia weather. Cold early then sunny and warm in the afternoon with breezes. Most corn harvested....still a few straggler fields and producers. There were lots of early beans harvested this week. Double crop beans still green and growing. Grass is still holding up well where there is management. Continuous grazed pastures are showing some wear.

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall during the week was less than expected, which was good. Soils continue to dry out, allowing for more field work. Grain farmers spent the week planting wheat and harvesting soybeans. Soybean yields to date have been very good. There have been a few quality issues. Vegetable farmers continue to harvest greens, broccoli, and other fall vegetables. The pumpkin crop has been poor due to rains from the tropical systems earlier this year.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### Eastern (cont'd)

(Southeastern continued.)

#### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Showers this week stalled some farm activities. Corn harvest continues and is about to wind down. Some wheat has been planted and emerged and looks good. Early soybeans have been harvested on a few acres and yields are good to very good, and in some cases, excellent. Vegetable harvest is all but down. A few pumpkins and sweet potatoes still out. No signs of frost yet, but next week could change that. Field prep for small grain planting continues. Folks making corn hybrid decisions for next year also.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Cold weather arrived this weekend with heavy frost in areas. A heavy rain earlier in the week has helped replenish ground moisture.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Fall and winter meeting season is beginning. Planting of small grains is underway. Soybeans are showing mold damage. It is in the middle of Fall calving. Several producers are either pulling their last flue barns or are curing them and getting ready to take them to buying stations.

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Harvest was again slowed due to some rains this week. Cotton is progressing and peanut yields are looking good. Some soybeans are being harvested. Dry weather over the next few days will be welcomed. Some wheat is being planted.

#### SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Showers have slowed down the fall harvest. Growers were busy with cotton, peanut, and soybean harvest and small grain planting. Yields are good for all crops considering all the wet weather this fall.



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